

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendance

|                                     |   |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nikki DeMarce, Associated Industries    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dick Mettler, NW Wall & Ceiling Contr Assoc |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | DeDe Edwards, Pederson Fryer Farms      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rob Sumner, Timber Operator's Council       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Steve George, Hop Growers of WA         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | John Sweitzer, Red Lion Inns & Hotels       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Joseph Hawkins, Bekins Northwest        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gene Vosberg, WA Restaurant Association     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tom Kwieciak, Bldg Industry Assoc of WA | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |

☐ = Present

**Introductions / Minutes** – Meeting called to order at 1:06 PM. Minutes of the April 8th meeting were approved as read. It was announced that *John Sweitzer* has tendered his resignation due to other commitments at work, and the fact that he is moving to Phoenix, Arizona. John sends his regards to the other committee members.

**Agency Priorities** – *Kathy Willis* presented a brief description of the agency priorities that Director Gary Moore recently announced. These include: Safe Workplaces (Saving Lives and Preventing Injuries and Illnesses); Workers' Compensation (Providing Better Service to Employers and Employees); Regulatory Improvement (Creating Rules That Make Sense and Work Well); and, Customer Service (Delivering Services in a Professional and Courteous Manner). Kathy advised that additional resources will be added to the claims program to enhance services.

**Summary of Legislative Changes** – Kathy presented an overview of the recent legislative session. The budget approved for the department totaled \$380 million (\$3 million more than last biennium). Several pieces of legislation were passed, including: SSB6030, which authorized a performance audit of the workers' compensation program (interim report due in December with a final report due August 1998); overtime for commissioned salespeople; state agency retro bill; creation of a WISHA advisory committee; and, a study to determine the feasibility of combining L&I and Employment Security reporting for employers. Additional details on the WISHA advisory committee will be forwarded to RAC members as soon as possible.

**Retro Symposium** – *Tom Kwieciak* reviewed the agenda from last year's symposium. *Mike Sotelo* is working on the 1997 symposium, and would like ideas and suggestions regarding the program. The symposium (from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Thursday, October 30, 1997) will be held jointly with the Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference at the Seattle Center.

**External Access** – *Al Newman* presented an update on the external access Internet project. Although the legislature did not provide funding for expansion of the project in this biennium, the department will be able to maintain the current service. The imaging index screen is currently being tested in a pilot phase, and will be evaluated shortly. The EOS system for quarterly and monthly reports is now up and running.

**State Fund Financial Update** – *Mark Mercier* provided an overview of the state fund financial condition, including the status of the contingency reserve, long-term investments, etc.

**Voc BPR Project** – *Dave Overby* gave a brief project presentation on the status of the project, and discussed the “problem statements” currently being developed by the project team and their stakeholders. *Terry Peterson* (Comprehensive Risk Management) is one of the committee participants. Comments, questions and feedback can be directed to *Mary Kaempfe*, at (360) 902-2263.

**Actuarial Update** – *Bill White* discussed the upcoming industrial insurance rate revisions for calendar year 1998; he expects no dramatic increases to occur. Bill also discussed a proposal to change the rule for rating occupational disease claims. Currently, multiple employers can be charged with a percentage of the claim, depending on degree of injurious exposure, etc. Washington State is the only workers’ comp insurer that uses this method. The department would like to change this rule effective 01/01/98 so the employer of last injurious exposure would be the only chargeable employer. Several committee members and other retro participants expressed concerns regarding this proposal. Further input will be obtained before making any final changes.

**C&C Reorganization** – *Mary Pat Frederick* discussed the recent changes to the Division of Consultation & Compliance; it has now been split into two separate entities: the WISHA Division (acting assistant director Michael Silverstein), and Specialty Compliance Services Division (acting assistant director Ernie LaPalm). Organizational changes affect only central office operations and not field staff positions.

**Meeting adjourned** – at 4:00 PM.